

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-9, 11-15, 20-25, 27, 29-59 and 61 are being examined and all stand rejected.

In response to the follow-up Office Action, dated 7 October 2003, Applicant has now further amended the previous response by listing claims 16-19 as canceled, by listing claim 60 as canceled and by listing claims 62-68 as canceled, in line with the previous amendment.

The Examiner has also noted that the language referring to dNTP analogs, etc., in claim 1 remains in the claim. Applicant has not removed this language because Applicant now believes that such terminology is understood in the art. In addition, examples of analogs are provided in the application, starting at page 19, line 14. Further, any such analog or base would have to permit replication so useful ones would be understood by those in the art. Finally, Applicant notes that these terms appear in the parent application, now issued patent 6,323,009, in claim 26 thereof. Thus, Applicants believe that this language is not vague so as to render the claim not allowable. Thus, Applicants have left this recitation in the claim.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's agent would facilitate prosecution of this applicant, said agent would be more than ready to discuss this matter further.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-0678.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan J. Grant".

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